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Opinion Divided Over Color TV System

The Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) and Japan Television Network (NTV) are split on how color television should be brought to Japan on a full scale for popular consumption.

NHK claims painstaking research and experimenting should first be carried out to produce TV sets domestically while NTV wants to go straight ahead and import sets from the United States to introduce full-scale color TV in this country.

According to Shigenori Hamada of the Radio Regulatory Bureau of the Postal Services Ministry, it will be two years before color TV sets can be produced in this country.

The two main drawbacks to mass production now are prohibitive costs (each set now costs \$500,000) and the difficulties encountered in producing a clear image of the three primary colors of red, green and blue on the viewing screen.

At present, both NHK and NTV use RCA sets imported from the United States but since these are operated on a narrow band of six megacycles, natural color reception is hampered by technical difficulties.

According to NHK, the only countries where color television is being broadcast are the United States and Canada, even Britain and France are still in the experimental stage.

NHK thus claims careful experimentation and spadework must first be carried out before plunging headlong into color television.

However, NTV, which is the only commercial TV station engaged in experimental color telecasting, says the RCA sets are good and wants to use them in spreading the use of color TV sets in this country.

An official of NTV's telecasting section says any delay will only put this country behind other countries and that without popular diffusion of the sets, color telecasting will not become cheap.

NTV plans to import 200 receiver sets, costing \$100 million, this year for distribution to prominent display centers in Tokyo but the main drawback to this plan is the lack of foreign exchange.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry will permit the import of only 100 TV sets this year for the entire industry.